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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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Maynard Owen Williams

A MACEDONIAN HOUSEWIFE TAKES MOVING DAY IN HER STRIDE

When winter comes to the mountains of Macedonia, the nomad shepherds — thousands of whom are Vlachs, or Rumani, as they term themselves—pull up stakes, literally, and move down to the warm lowlands near the Aegean. Most of the house-building and house-shifting, as well as the housekeeping, is done by the woman. This smiling Vlach appears to consider moving all in the year's work. Piling tent poles like a handful of giant pencils on muleback, she starts down the rocky road after the men who are herding the flocks to new pastures. The blanket serving as a spread for the speckled hen, who rides in state, was woven on a hand loom, as was the woman's full-skirted woolen dress. She wove them in intervals when she was not cooking for her family, or setting up or dismantling her home (Bulletin No. 3).

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Kurils and Karafuto Formed Japan's Northernmost Regions

THE COLD and foggy Kuril Islands and near-by Karafuto, which were promised to the U.S.S.R. by the recently revealed terms of the Yalta conference, were bleak northern outposts of the Japanese Empire. Despite their inhospitable nature, these thinly populated mountainous stretches added to Japan's food and fuel supplies during both peace and war.

In the Kurils, a mist-enshrouded chain of volcanic peaks, Japanese fishermen processed the quantities of salmon, cod, and crab which they caught in the surrounding waters. For spare-time work they hunted grizzly bears, sables, foxes, and other game.

Kurils Bar Entrance to Sea of Okhotsk

From Karafuto (the Japanese name for the southern part of the long, narrow island of Sakhalin, illustration, next page), lumber and wood pulp were obtained. Fishing also was a major enterprise, and coal was mined in the highlands. In addition, the Japanese held concessions for oil from the extensive fields in the northern part of the island, which already was Russian territory.

The location of these possessions, too, was important to the Japanese, because thereby they were able to share with the Soviets control of the Sea of Okhotsk. The Kurils stretch across the frigid Pacific from Hokkaido, northernmost of the Japanese home islands, to the tip of Siberia's Kamchatka Peninsula. They bar the entrance to the Sea of Okhotsk, which is formed by a huge indentation in the Siberian coast west of Kamchatka.

Directly north of Hokkaido, the island of Sakhalin hugs the Siberian coast and is part of the western boundary of the Sea of Okhotsk. Transfer of Karafuto and the Kurils means that, aside from the northern coast of Hokkaido, the sea is completely encircled by Soviet territory.

Before the war both Russians and Japanese had been developing their portions of Sakhalin, which is slightly larger than West Virginia. The Japanese had been urging farmers to move there, but the severe climate and the rugged land, with two parallel mountain ranges, have handicapped agricultural development. Instead, forestry and fishing have occupied most of the Japanese residents of Karafuto, who in prewar years exceeded 330,000.

Japanese Moved Native Ainus to One Island

Karafuto, nevertheless, has been more attractive to settlers than the Kurils. Although Chishima Retto, the Japanese name for the Kurils, means "thousand islands," not more than 32 of the steep, rocky exposures are large enough to be dignified with the title of islands. Snow covers the ground from the middle of September to June, and then heavy fog sets in.

After the Japanese took possession of the Kurils in 1875, they segregated on one island (Shikotan) the native Ainus, who have strong Caucasian characteristics. Aside from fishermen, however, few Japanese lived in the northern Kurils until military bases were manned during the war. American ships and bombers repeatedly attacked the islands, especially Paramushiro, because of their military installations.

Kunashira, Etorofu, and Uruppu, three large southerly islands in the Kuril chain, supported most of the scant population of the islands. Kunashira lies just off the northeast corner of Hokkaido. The group has often been compared with

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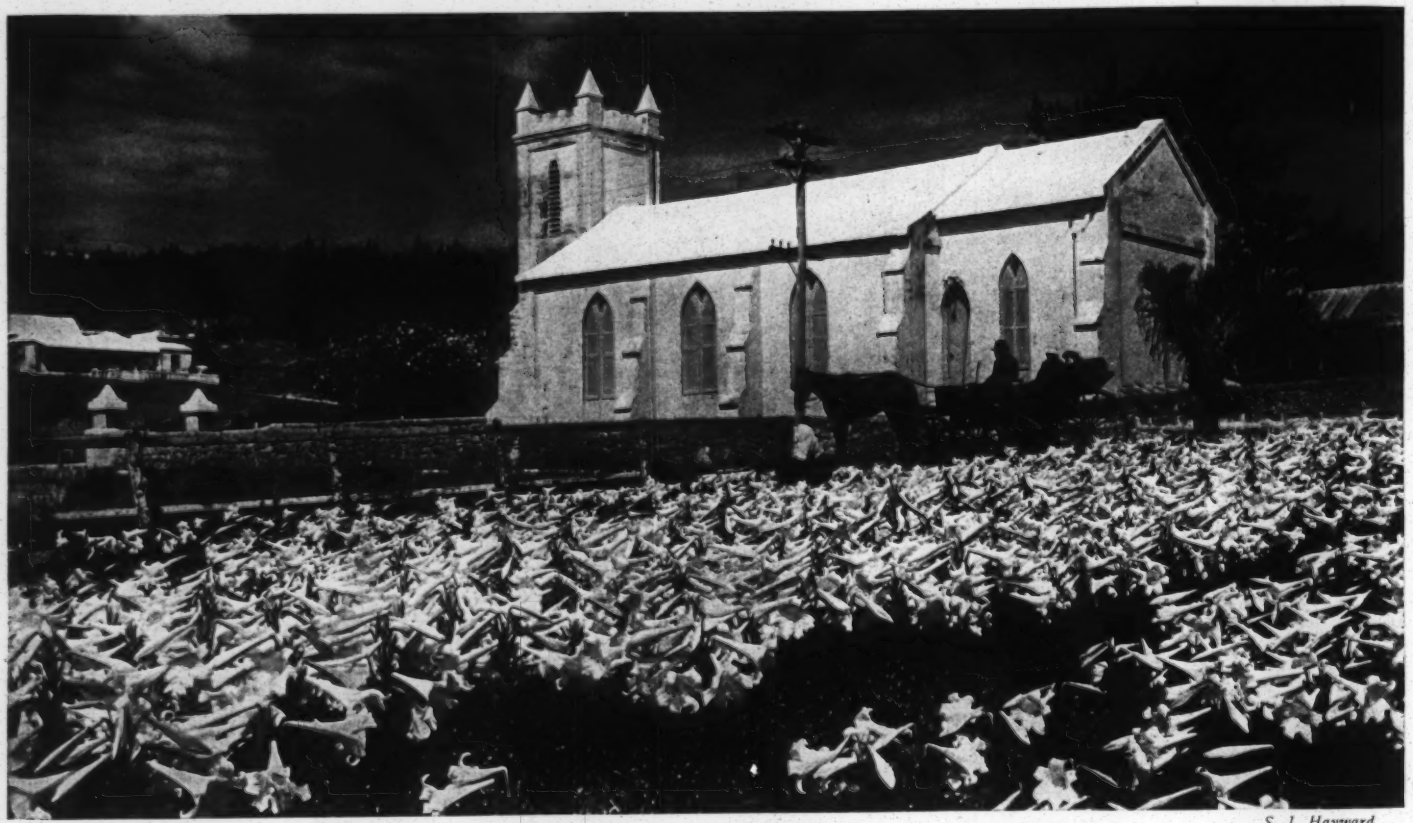

S. J. Hayward

BERMUDA'S PREWAR NON-MONOXIDE PURITY IS EMPHASIZED IN THIS AUTOLESS SCENE OF EASTER LILIES AND A WHITE CHURCH

Flowers thrive in the British colony's nearly perfect climate. During March and April countless lilies are grown, mostly for the New York trade. Cousins of this trumpet-shaped flower include the tiger lily, lily of the valley, tulip, Spanish bayonet, hyacinth, trillium, onion, asparagus, and garlic—but not the calla or the water lily. Today this picture might have an automobile in it (Bulletin No. 2).

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Automobiles, Long Banned, Now Spin over Bermuda's Roads

A LEGISLATIVE decision to open Bermuda's picturesque shell roads to the automobile extends to the pleasure-car driver a privilege which for years was granted only to the operators of public-service and approved commercial vehicles.

The much-publicized motor law of this British colony lying in the Atlantic Ocean about 640 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, the nearest American mainland, limited the operation of cars by keeping them off the public roads. Possession of an automobile was not forbidden. As most of the roads are public, and private roads are few and short, the law in effect prohibited the general use of automobiles.

Bermuda's Three R's Offered by Nature

Usefulness of power-driven vehicles was recognized in the motorized fire department, automotive ambulances, and sanitation and highway-maintenance trucks. Freight trucks are available for hauling loads too heavy for horse-drawn wagons. A railroad has been in operation since 1931.

Back of the old ban on pleasure cars was the desire of the colony to keep the traditional peace and quiet and the slow tempo of life for which Bermuda was a byword all over the world. Residents felt that this factor, as much as their climate, constituted the distinctive appeal to vacationists. Bermuda early recognized the worth of the three R's freely offered by Nature—rest, relaxation, and recreation.

Bermuda's good fortune is in its mild temperatures—the year-round average is about 70 degrees Fahrenheit—its blue skies, its characteristic sunshine, the green hills softly toned by a mantle of cedars, and a wealth of flowering plants—oleanders, bougainvillea, poinsettias, lilies (illustration, inside cover), and roses. Framing all this beauty and washing the pink-and-white bathing beaches, the iridescent, coral-bottomed sea provides its own attraction in color effects and marine gardens.

Included in the colony are more than 300 islands, the number depending on how large a rock must be to be called an island. It is sometimes claimed that there is a Bermuda isle for every day of the year. About 20 islands are inhabited, but only half a dozen are important. These main islands lie on a general northeast-southwest axis in the form of a fishhook, the hook end enclosing Great Sound and Little Sound.

Rainwater Is Caught for Drinking

Bridges and causeways knit the main group so closely that a person cycling or driving over the roads gets the impression that there is only one island. Bermuda figures its area at a little more than 19 square miles, less than the size of Manhattan Island. Less than half its permanent population of 33,000 is white. The largest town is Hamilton (illustration, next page), the capital, with a prewar population of about 3,000.

Vegetables are grown in considerable quantity, but home folk and visitors must look to imports to fill local larders. Chief suppliers are the United States and Canada. Water for drinking and household use is a problem. Rain is caught in cisterns and tanks; during droughts water is brought from New York as ship ballast.

By arrangement with the British Government the islands have become sites

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the American-owned Aleutian chain which stretches southwestward from Alaska toward Kamchatka.

Like the Aleutians, the Kurils seem to be "weather-makers." They lie where warm and cold currents meet and foment many storms that cross the Pacific and strike the western coast of the United States.

Nearly three-quarters of a century ago Japan began laying plans for the far-northern strongholds now occupied by the U.S.S.R. By 1875 Russian and Japanese expansionists had met midway in the Kurils and also on Sakhalin. Russia agreed to withdraw from the Kurils and Japan was to give up Sakhalin. But, in the subsequent Russo-Japanese War, Japan took back the lower (and important) half of Sakhalin.

Note: The Kurils and Karafuto are shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Japan and Korea, on which they appear in large-scale insets. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C.

For additional information, see "Face of Japan," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1945; "Japan and the Pacific," April, 1944; and "Japan, Child of the World's Old Age," March, 1933*. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.*)

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 8, 1944, "Soviet-Japanese Sakhalin Has Rich Resources."

Bulletin No. 1, February 25, 1946

Natori from Black Star

A JAPANESE SENTRY PATROLS A BORDER NO LONGER IN EFFECT

Russians, for the first time since the Russo-Japanese War at the beginning of the century, now occupy all the wintry island of Sakhalin. The chrysanthemum-decorated stone marks the 50th degree of north latitude, the boundary between north Sakhalin and Karafuto, the Japanese half of the long sliver of land off Siberia.

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Problem Areas of Europe: 8. Macedonia

(This is the eighth of a series of nine articles on European trouble spots.)

A SWIRLING eddy in that political whirlpool known as the Balkans—whose history has been a long succession of violence and oppression—is a loosely bounded area called Macedonia. Its borders are indefinite owing to the fact that Macedonia has not been a political unit in modern times. More than two million people of varying races, living in some 55,000 square miles divided among three adjoining nations, provide Macedonia with problems to defy the wisdom of a Solomon.

From the region where northern Greece meets Albania and Yugoslavia, Macedonia sweeps in an eastward arc across the northern end of the Aegean. The Rhodope Mountains of Bulgaria rise on its northeastern rim. Its eastern border is usually conceded to be the Nestos River, which, upstream in Bulgaria, is known as the Mesta. About midway of Macedonia's Aegean coast, the trident-shaped Khalkidikē Peninsula thrusts its triple prongs southeastward.

Salonika Has Known Many Masters

Macedonia includes much of the southern lobe of Yugoslavia, and its generally accepted western border meets Albania.

The region is drained by the Vardar and Struma rivers, which have cut useful outlets for the inland Balkan countries. Through southern Macedonia passes an important seacoast route between Athens and Istanbul (Constantinople).

Salonika (Thessalonikē), ancient "city of a thousand sails," is Macedonia's chief city and principal port—second city of modern Greece. It was an important Greek colony, a Roman port, and second city of the Byzantine Empire. Sacked by the Saracens in 904, it was taken in succession by the Normans, the Venetians, and the Turks. From 1430, for nearly 500 years, it was part of the Ottoman Empire. A tower-fort, built by Suleiman the Magnificent at the height of Turkish power, still stands guard over Salonika.

The city's present importance is due to the fact that it is the only first-class port of the north Aegean and lies at the mouth of the Vardar depression, on the principal railroad from Belgrade, Budapest, and beyond. Yugoslavia, deprived of good Adriatic ports by the lofty Dinaric Alps, looks south for an outlet, as does Bulgaria. Three nations—Greece, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia—share Macedonia. In many lowland districts irrigation is necessary.

Variety of Races Makes for Confusion of Tongues

Macedonia's climate has extremes of heat and cold. The northern reaches of the land are ridged with rugged mountain chains which girdle hilly plains. Most of the people in the area are nomadic shepherds (illustration, cover). Farther south, a series of broad alluvial plains rims the coast—fertile basins with a mild, equable climate. The region produces grain, tobacco, grapes, figs, and similar crops. Much tobacco smoked in America and labeled Turkish is really from Macedonia. In many lowland districts irrigation is necessary.

This southern section is better developed and more densely populated. Beneath its surface lies oil, as yet largely untapped.

Macedonia's population consists of Serbs, Bulgarians, Greeks, nomad Vlachs, Albanians, Turks, Gypsies, and Jews. They speak a dozen languages and belong

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for an American naval base and an air station, an Atlantic outpost for the defense of the mainland and the Panama Canal, about 1,840 miles to the southwest. In 1941 the Bermuda House of Assembly approved an act allowing American personnel to use automobiles in connection with the construction of the base. This same house had once turned down the request of a governor of the colony for an automobile; so it was World War II which initiated the automotive inroads of Bermuda's quiet. This, incidentally, is as close as actual war has come to Bermuda. Never in its long history has it witnessed an act of war.

Named for their discoverer, the Spaniard Juan de Bermudez who looked them over in 1515, the islands were no man's land until 1609 when a shipwrecked party of Virginia-bound colonists found refuge on their shores. The coral and lava islands have been continuously occupied since then, and constitute Britain's oldest colony. In 1684 the British Crown formally took over the government and made Bermuda the official name.

Note: Bermuda is shown on a large-scale inset on the Society's Map of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies.

For additional information, see "Americans in the Caribbean," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1942*; "Happy Landing in Bermuda," February, 1939*; and "Round Trip to Davy Jones's Locker," June, 1931*.

Bulletin No. 2, February 25, 1946

J. C. Gregory

THE WHITE ROOFS OF HAMILTON GLEAM BESIDE BERMUDA'S BLUE WATERS

Enclosing Great Sound is a curving hook of the main island. At its end in the distance white specks show the location of Somerset village. Houses are white because the law requires roofs to be limewashed once a year. This helps keep pure the rainwater which, drained into cisterns, constitutes a large portion of the islands' water supply.

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Bank of England Is Centuries-Old Empire Financial Center

THE British Labor Government won a domestic victory recently in completely "nationalizing" the world-famous Bank of England. The bank has lived most of its 250 years in a compromise between private operation and government control. Though in theory a private institution, maintaining merely a banker-client relationship to the government, in reality the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" had become more and more a public servant under Treasury direction.

In 1694, year of the bank's founding, England had a Dutch king (William III), a wealthy merchant class, a flourishing stock exchange, and a war with France. All four sorely needed a bank. A charter, granted by Parliament, was based on the proposals of William Paterson, a Scotsman. The bank was capitalized at about $4,800,000, raised by the public. Money was loaned to the government at eight per cent interest. In return, the bank received from the government a yearly sum for expenses, the right to issue bank notes up to the amount of its capital, and to conduct a regular banking business.

"Bankers' Bank" Lends Money to Other Banks

The bank's infant years were troubled. London goldsmiths, the bankers of medieval times, organized "runs" to put their new rival out of business. Weathering these with the help of farsighted merchants, the bank prospered and London took Amsterdam's place as western Europe's chief money center. Successive loans to the government added to the institution's privileges and responsibilities until it had assumed the leading place in British finance.

The bank became, in time, the sole financial agent of the government and the central "bankers' bank" for other British banks. Now practically none of its business is with individuals. It manages the public debt and pays interest on it, holds the government's cash, and helps in the collection of public revenue. It makes loans to the government and issues the nation's currency. Interest rates of the bank, published at noon every Thursday, have become the standard for bank-loan rates throughout Britain's far-flung financial empire. Through these rates the bank controls the volume of credit available to business men.

Still operating largely on principles laid down by the Bank Act of 1844, this privately owned and operated institution has long worked hand-in-glove with the government. Government usually takes the bank's advice in money matters, but in any case the government has the final word. Like the present powers of the House of Commons, the privileges of the bank are the result of a centuries-long, typically British evolution.

Bank Withstood Panics, Riots, Wars

Those privileges have been somewhat balanced by the bank's grave responsibilities. In 1720 came the bursting of the "South Sea Bubble," a fabulous get-rich-quick scheme for trade with Pacific islands, and the bank barely staved off disaster. In 1780 a rum-crazed mob attacked the bank, and was repulsed by soldiers and clerks who melted down inkstands to make bullets.

The 19th century brought the stress of Napoleonic wars and the strain of half a dozen major "panics." Twice helped by the Banque de France, Britain's "Old Lady" weathered these storms, built a reputation which made the slogan "safe as the Bank of England" a world-wide simile for Gibraltar-like strength. Two world

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to seven religious groups. Macedonia is indeed the land of Babel—a "tangle of tongues," a "dumping ground of peoples," a museum of racial strains.

A crossroads battleground since prehistoric times, Macedonia was subdued by Persia early in the 5th century, B.C. It has been ruled by Philip and Alexander the Great, and has known the sway of the Romans, barbarian Slavs, and Turks. St. Paul established the first Christian churches there. Saints Cyril and Methody, creators of the Slavic alphabet, went north from Salonika to enlighten the barbarians.

From the 15th century, for nearly 400 years, Mohammedanism dominated the Balkans, but in the 19th century a rising tide of nationalism checked Turkish power. Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, and Bulgaria gained independence.

Macedonia was among the last sections of this Near East region to be liberated from the Ottoman Empire. To end Turkish rule in Macedonia, the newly freed Balkan states attacked their former master in 1912, and reduced the sultan's power in Europe to small holdings in Thrace.

Division of the spoils caused a war among the Balkan allies in 1913. At its conclusion Macedonia was divided among Bulgaria, Serbia (later to be part of Yugoslavia), and Greece. Bulgaria, bitterly disappointed at her small share, joined the Central Powers in 1915. Greece received additional parts of Macedonia in 1919, shutting Bulgaria off from the Aegean. Twenty years later, Bulgaria, heeding Hitler's promises, joined the Axis nations, and again found itself on the losing side at the end of a war.

Note: Macedonia may be located on the Society's Map of Europe and the Near East.

For additional information, see "New Greece, the Centenarian, Forges Ahead," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1930; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 8, 1945, "Allies in Europe: 1. Greece."

Bulletin No. 3, February 25, 1946

DISPUTED MACEDONIA IS GREECE'S NORTHERN BORDERLAND

Macedonia, bone of Balkan contention, whose borders appear on no modern map, swings across the end of the island-dotted Aegean. Variety characterizes both its terrain and its weather. Rivers and mountain ranges like long grasping fingers reach down from the interior of the Balkan Peninsula to the ragged Aegean shores. Like a fingernail at the tip of Khaikidikē's easternmost prong, Mt. Athos rises more than 6,000 feet above the sea. Twenty monasteries cling to its cliffs and raise red-tiled roofs in its rocky gulches.

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

WYETH MURALS DECORATE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

MANY an armchair adventurer has been transported into the land of derring-do by the bold, action-filled illustrations of adventure classics by the late N. C. Wyeth. Since his accidental death in October, 1945, a memorial exhibition of his work has been presented in Wilmington, Delaware; and West Chester, Pennsylvania, has planned a similar show for the spring. These cities are near Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, where the internationally known artist lived.

Some of Mr. Wyeth's most noteworthy work—a series of five large murals—is permanently on view in the Washington, D. C., buildings of the National Geographic Society. These murals depict the "Romance of Discovery"—man's innate longing to reach, and cross, the blue horizon—which has caused the geographic exploration of nearly all the world.

The central canvas of the series—"The Discoverer"—is dedicated to the "Dauntless Leader" of explorations into "the unknown" who has "Braved the Sea, Conquered the Desert, Pierced the Jungle, Scaled the Mount," until at last "his tired eyes behold the Goal of his Dreams. It is his gift to World Knowledge." The painting is a Balboa-like scene, but is not, as generally supposed, a literal depiction of the Spaniard staring ". . . with eagle eyes . . . at the Pacific" from "a peak in Darien."

Another mural shows Rear Admiral (then Lt. Comdr.) Richard E. Byrd's plane—"Geography's newest ally in exploration"—winging toward the North Pole. In the third painting, the three tiny caravels of Columbus cross the uncharted Atlantic "to give civilization a new hemisphere." The final two canvases are filled by Eastern and Western Hemisphere Maps of Discovery, in the many-colored 16th century style, showing routes of land and sea explorers from Marco Polo to Peary.

* * * * *

PYGMIES AND "GIANTS" LIVE IN RUANDA-URUNDI, BELGIAN MANDATE

RUANDA-URUNDI, which Belgium has indicated will be turned over to United Nations supervision, is a fertile land peopled by the tallest and some of the shortest men in Africa. The mile-high, equatorial land also has one of interior Africa's densest populations.

A far-inland portion of the former German East Africa Colony, Ruanda-Urundi was assigned to Belgium under a League of Nations mandate after World War I. It covers about 22,000 square miles (half the size of Pennsylvania). On the north is Uganda; on the east and southeast, Tanganyika. Lake Tanganyika's northern tip touches on the southwest; the Belgian Congo and Lake Kivu border the west.

Considered one territory by the Belgians, it actually is made up of two sultanates, Ruanda and Urundi. Under the supervision of Belgian officials, native chiefs handle many day-to-day affairs of government. In the highlands is Astrida, a central city of missions, schools, and churches which have been built by missionaries and their pupils. Usumbura is the capital.

Ruanda-Urundi is a country ranging from snow-capped mountains to productive fields. High elevation makes the climate fresh and healthful. Numerous small lakes dot the interior. Along the Kagera River, a national park is maintained as a wild-life preserve so that the natives will not exterminate the big game.

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wars in the past 30 years have left it strained but still strong.

The main building of the bank occupies a four-acre "island" site in London's financial heart. The bank originally opened its doors in a small building called Mercers' Chapel. After a few months it moved to Grocers' Hall, where it remained until it moved to the present site in 1734.

Until fairly recently all that passers-by could see of the bank was a one-story, windowless, fortresslike wall completely surrounding the "island." Blackened by time and disguised by numerous classic columns, the wall was designed for security and to inspire confidence in the breast of even the most timid investor. Rooms and halls were lighted by an inner court, once the graveyard of a church. In 1924 the bank, pressed for space, began a vertical expansion. Several imposing stories, white in their newness (illustration, below), now rise above the wall, and impressive porticos pierce the barrier at the main entrance.

Since the riot of 1780 the bank is guarded at night by a company of Foot Guards, who march with fixed bayonets through London's streets to their posts at 6 p.m. The commanding officer has a small suite at the bank, and may entertain visitors until 11 o'clock. The bank provides food for the officer, beer and cheese for the enlisted men.

Bank of England messengers are grave, dignified men who wear scarlet coats and top hats like Masters of the Hunt. Unarmed and unescorted, they often carry a proverbial "king's ransom," safe in the knowledge that Londoners know that even to touch them is to invite the gravest suspicion.

Ewing Galloway

IMPOSING AND AUSTERE STANDS "THE OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET"

The Bank of England is believed to have gained its nickname from a 1797 cartoon which showed a hideously caricatured William Pitt the Younger making ardent advances toward an elderly spinsterish dame wearing a dress of bank notes and sitting on a chest of gold. The cartoon was titled "Political Ravishment, or The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street in danger!" Origin of the street's name is doubtful.

The population, estimated at 3,800,000, consists of three main tribes. The Watussi, ruling caste, are brown-skinned aristocrats traditionally descended from Egypt's Pharaohs, to whom they bear some resemblance. Proud and intelligent, the Watussi are the tallest men in Africa; many attain a height of seven feet. They wear spotless white togas made colorful with stamped geometric designs, and are known for their hospitality and courtesy. Watussi athletes, running and jumping from a one-foot mound as their take-off, clear heights above eight feet—more than a foot above the world's record of civilized men.

The Wahutu, pure-blooded Negroes, were conquered by the Watussi and became their slaves. As the working class, they are content to be herdsmen and tillers of the soil.

A few thousand Batwa pygmies, dour little men who average not much more than four feet in height, live on the pleasant shores of Lake Kivu. They are nomadic by nature but have chosen to build a community to prevent being completely ousted by landholders. Busy with hunting and making pottery, they can keep other tribes at a distance by use of the bow and small poisoned arrows.

Ruanda-Urundi's wealth is in grain and herds, the latter estimated at one million head of cattle. Coffee was introduced as a paying crop in 1931 and is now grown in abundance, along with corn, rice, and fruit. Most of the farmers keep honeybees. Except for a little gold and tin, the territory's mineral resources have not been exploited.

Note: Ruanda-Urundi may be located on the Society's Map of Africa.

Bulletin No. 5, February 25, 1946

Dr. Franz Stoedtner

WATUSSI MEN, TALL ARISTOCRATS OF RUANDA-URUNDI, WATCH A WAR DANCE